

Demand to remove government control on sugar

†1378. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the demand to remove Government control from sugar industry is being made by sugar mills;
- (b) if so, the details of demands of sugar mills;
- (c) whether farmer would be left at the mercy of sugar mill owners in case these demands are accepted as it is; and
- (d) if so, whether farmer's representatives would be taken into confidence before decontrolling the sugar industry, if so, the plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands include relating sugarcane price to realization from sugar and direct realization from by-products on the basis of a suitable formula; minimum price protection of sugarcane to come from Government during years of low sugar realization; procurement of PDS sugar from the open market; removal of sugar from the purview of Essential Commodities Act; decontrol of sugar; dispensing with the release mechanism and stock holding limits on trade or bulk consumers.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government will ensure that farmers' interest is suitably protected. Government will take into account all aspects including availability, price situation, impact on cane growers as well as consumers of sugar, development of sugar industry and fulfilment of future growth in demand, etc. before taking any decision on decontrol.

Food security to all

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.